

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Two Nights

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



Brown Mountain and Rockytop

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 18.6 miles

Trip Description: Wilderness valley, excellent camping and fishing, great views

Entry: 77 MP - Brown Mtn OL

Exit: 77 MP - Brown Mtn OL

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Day One

Campsite: Big Run Portal/Loop Trails - backcountry

5.5 miles

Hike Brown Mountain Trail, 5.3 miles.

Merge onto Big Run Portal Trail and find a place to camp.

Day Two

Campsite: Big Run Portal/Loop Trails - backcountry

8 to 10 miles

Cross the bridge heading west on Big Run Portal Trail (0.5 from Brown Mountain Trail to Rockytop Trail).

Turn left onto Rockytop Trail, hiking 5.7 miles.

Turn left onto Big Run Loop Trail and hike 1.3 miles.

Turn left onto Big Run Portal Trail and look for a place to camp, 0.5 mile to 2.5 miles.

Day Three

3.4 to 5.4 miles

Hike downstream on Big Run Portal Trail (2.4 miles from the Loop Trail to Rocky Mountain Run Trail).

Turn right on Rocky Mountain Run Trail and hike 2.7 miles.

Turn right onto Brown Mountain Trail and hike 0.7 mile to return to vehicle.

Notes

Excellent camping and fishing are available throughout the Big Run drainage. This wilderness valley is well worth exploring.

The multiple stream crossings on Big Run Portal can be knee to waist high when the water is up. Beware in the spring and after heavy rains!

Lots of blueberries along both Brown Mountain and Rockytop trails in season.